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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 9/682,627
 Applicant : Masakazu KARITA
 Filed : October 1, 2001
 Tech. Cntr./Art Unit : 3736
 Examiner : Brian Scott Szmal

Docket No. : 31.001-AG
 Customer No. : 29453

Confirmation No. 2280

OFFICIAL

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James W. Judge
 Reg. No. 42,701

Signature

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office action of January 21, 2004 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.